

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1602

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG PRIORITY

COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 606

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, PO

SUBJECT: NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE"

REFS: (A) USNATO 552; (B) LISBON 579; (C) LISBON 553

SUMMARY: EXERCISE AND TRAINING FLIGHTS PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE.
SHORE LEAVE NOT RPT NOT CANCELED. TWO MOST INFLUENTIAL PAPERS IN
PORTUGAL REPORTING NEWS ACCURATELY AND CALMLY. LEFTIST PRESS
GIVING EXERCISE SENSATIONALIST TREATMENT. END SUMMARY.

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2. NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE" PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE. DITTO TRAINING FLIGHTS. SHORE LEAVES FOR CREWS HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN CANCELED AND THERE IS NO INTENTION TO CANCEL THEM.

2. MEDIA REACTION TO EXERCISE ABOUT WHAT EXPECTED. TELEVISION NEWSCAST EVENING OF JAN 31 CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH IBERLANT DEPUTY COMMANDER NORONHA. IN LOW KEY, RELAXED FASHION, NORONHA EXPLAINED BACKGROUND OF EXERCISE, CLARIFIED MISUNDERSTANDING REPORTED BY PRESS OVER NUMBER OF PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE GRANTED SHORE LEAVE.

3. MASS CIRCULATION MORNING DIARIO DE NOTICIAS REPORTED DETAILS OF EXERCISES FULLY AND CALMLY FEB 1. D/N'S REPORT CONTAINED DIAGRAMS OF SEA AREA EXERCISE IS COVERING AND AIR ROUTE BEING FLOWN BY SARATOGA PILOTS. WEEKLY EXPRESSO REPORTS FEB 1 THAT "EITHER PORTUGAL ABANDONS ITS NATO MILITARY COMMITMENT, WHICH THE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WILL NOT ALLOW, OR IT REMAINS IN A MILITARY BLOC WHICH HAS NO IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON PORTUGUESE POLITICAL LIFE."

4. MORNING O SECULO FEB 1 CALLED NATO EXERCISE AN ACT OF INTIMIDATION. AUTHOR OF PIECE, A WELL-KNOWN LEFTIST, SAYS PORTUGAL DID NOT ASK U.S. FOR PROTECTION AND CALLS UPON PORTUGAL TO GET OUT OF NATO.

5. WEEKLY SEMPRE FIXE FEB 1 SAYS NATO EXERCISE IS REFLECTION OF U.S. INTEREST IN MAINTAINING AND SAFEGUARDING ITS ECONOMIC INVESTMENTS IN EUROPE.

6. VIRTUALLY ALL PAPERS REPORT TRAINING FLIGHTS OVER PORTUGUESE "NATIONAL" TERRITORY. SOME SUGGEST THIS IS OFFENSIVE TO PORTUGUESE SOVEREIGNTY.

7. COMMENT: AFTERNOON TABLOIDS, O SECULO AND SEMPRE FIXE, ARE PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED. THOUGHTFUL PORTUGUESE CONSIDER THESE PAPERS TO BE MANIPULATED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND EXTREME LEFTISTS. DIARIO DE NOTICIAS IS FAST GAINING A REPUTATION FOR REPORTING THE NEWS FAIRLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY, AND IS CONSIDERED A MODERATE SOCIALIST PAPER. EXPRESSO IS LIBERAL-INDEPENDENT AND IS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO COUNT.
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